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**Date:** 5/19/98 3:54pm  
**Subject:** RESENDING CASTEX SYSTEMS, INC. POLREP #8

Date: 04/29/98

**Subject:** CASTEX SYSTEMS REMOVAL, Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, LA  
**From:** Mike Ryan, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region 6 (214/665-2273)  
**To:** Director, OERR  
Charles A. Gazda, RPB, EPA Region 6  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)  
Case Officer, Case Team 1, USCG NPFC  
Commanding Officer, USCG-D8(m)  
Commanding Officer, MLC-LANT Contracting Officer  
Commanding Officer, USCG Gulf Strike Team

POLREP NO: 8

Event: Removal Action  
Site ID#: Z663 (FPN 08-6-14)  
Start Date: 08/19/96  
Demobilization Date: N/A  
Completion Date: N/A  
Site Type: Inactive NOW Facility  
Site Latitude/Longitude:

## I. SITUATION

### A. Site description

The Castex System Site is a nonhazardous oil-field waste (NOW) disposal facility that was abandoned in 1989 shortly after a fire and catastrophic failure of the produced water storage tank battery. The site is located at Lat 30° 11' 20", Lon 92° 36' 55", approximately three miles southeast of Jennings, Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana. The facility is in a rural area and is situated adjacent to a marsh and one mile west of the Mermentau River.

### B. Description of threat

Approximately 9700 barrels (bbls) of NOW fluids are contained in 19 above ground storage tanks (ASTs, varying in condition from fair to poor. The failed storage tanks contained naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) sediments that were spilled into the containment basin and mixed

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with oily sludge. The containment basin has been breached on the south side and is releasing oily water and NORM sediments into the marsh. The marsh flows into the Mermentau River, which flows through Grand Lake to the Gulf of Mexico. The facility also has eleven waste management units (WMUs) that contain approximately 20,400 bbls of oil-based material, 96,319 bbls of salt-base material, and 17,100 bbls of rainwater.

Chemicals of concern are barium, arsenic, benzene, crude oil waste, and NORM.

#### C. Preliminary Assessment Results

Air monitoring around the ASTs and WMUs for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), percent oxygen, and the percent lower explosive limit (LEL) indicated no readings significantly different from background. The soil in the primary containment basin has readings of 500 microRoentgen/hour (uR/hr), according to a 1995 LDNR survey, which qualifies the material as NORM by Louisiana regulations.

Preliminary results of EPA analytical data indicate that no area composite sample exceeded RCRA regulatory limits for TCLP Metals or Pesticides/PCBs. Analysis of AREA-J composite sample indicated 37 picoCuries/gram (pC/g) for Radium 226 and 15 pC/g for Radium 228. Analysis of the composite sample of tanks T11-T14 indicated 35 pC/g for Radium 226 and 16 pC/g for Radium 228. Analysis of AREA-Q composite sample indicated 4.2 pC/g for Radium 226 and 3.0 pC/g for Radium 228.

#### D. Site History/Background

Historical actions taken: The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) permitted the facility to begin disposal of NOW material in September of 1982. The facility accepted oil- and water- based drilling mud, drill cuttings, produced saltwater, and oily water. Saltwater was injected into the saltwater disposal (SWD) well and solids were stockpiled in WMUs for treatment. The LDNR ordered the facility closed in August of 1989, based on violations of Statewide Order No. 29-B, by Administrative Order No. UIC 89-2. The LDNR requested assistance from EPA Region 6 ERB in May of 1996.

## II. SITE INFORMATION

### A. Site Activities to Date

1. Initial Removal Action (July 23 through September 26, 1996)  
Initial removal actions can be referenced in POLREPs 1 through 7.

#### 2. Second Removal Action

On March 10, 1998, EPA conducted a site walk and planning meeting with LDNR, LDEQ, the local EOC, START, and the EPA ERRS contractor CET Environmental Services, Incorporated (CET). CET has replaced the BOA contractor EMTECH as the primary removal contractor.

EPA, USCG, START, and CET re-mobilized to site on April 6, 1998, to continue removal actions. The site was cleared of vegetation and a command post was mobilized to the site and connected to telephone and power.

On April 13, 1998, EPA, START, USCG, and CET attended an eight-hour NORM awareness training, which is required by the State of Louisiana. The course was presented by Growth Resources Incorporated (GRI) of Lafayette, Louisiana. GRI has been subcontracted by CET to provide a radiation safety officer (RSO) to oversee safety and disposal protocol for NORM removal and disposal activities. The RSO is responsible for the determination of the presence of NORM contamination on or in removed materials, as well as determine site safety PPE levels based on gas and airborne particulate sampling and any other, site decontamination controls, and all other NORM related issue.

CET has begun dismantling ASTs T1, T2, and T10-T14 with acetylene torches. A frac tank was mobilized to the site and filled with rainwater from Area A to facilitate fire control during cutting operations. All steel from the T10-T14 is checked for NORM contamination. Steel with NORM contamination will be sent to the GRI facility in Gibson, Louisiana for decontamination. Decontaminated steel will be sent for scrap and the removed NORM will be held at the GRI Gibson facility until disposal can be arranged, which will be dependant on the NORM concentration analysis. Non-contaminated scrap metal will be transported to LaRose Scrap & Salvage, Inc., in Intracoastal City, Louisiana, for recycling.

CET has begun removing fluids and sludge from the following ASTs and box tanks (TBs): T1-T3, T6-T14, TB1-TB5, and TB7. The RSO collected representative samples from the contents removed from T10-T14; analytical results indicated < 30 pC/g. Thus far, all AST and TB waste has been disposed of as NOW material (see Section V for details).

**B. Next Steps:**

Continue removing materials from and dismantling the ASTs and TBs. EPA will continue to coordinate with LDEQ and LDNR for state removal requirements.

RFPs are also being prepared for NOW and NORM waste disposal based on EPA, LDNR, and GRI analytical data. Final disposition of NORM will depend on disposal analytical results. Final disposition of NOW material will depend on LDNR's agreement of proposed EPA removal actions.

**C. Key Issues:**

Deed and Title Search and Review is on-going to determine current status of PRPs for enforcement action and cost recovery through the fund center.

**III. PROPOSED ACTIONS**

Excavation of NOW solids and disposal of same at a state permitted facility. Excavation of NORM contaminated material and disposal of same at a state permitted facility. P&A the SWD well and restore site to grade.

**IV. COST INFORMATION**

**1. Initial Removal Action (July 23 through September 26, 1996)**

SITE TOTAL (July 23 through September 26, 1996): \$133,946.52  
Itemized cost information for the initial removal action can be referenced in POLREPs 1 through 7.

**2. Second Removal Action (March 10 through COB April 29, 1998)**

Contractor (CET):	\$ 250,000	
Personnel		\$ 49,423.28
Equipment		\$ 2,482.00
Other		\$134,965.81
Contractor Total:		\$186,871.09

Government:	\$ 50,000	
EPA		\$ 6,886.00
USCG-GST		\$ 12,036.49
START		\$ 7,731.00
Government Total		\$ 26,653.49

SITE TOTAL (March 10 through COB April 29, 1998): \$213,524.58

COMBINED SITE TOTAL: \$347,471.10

V. DISPOSITION OF WASTE

NORM WASTE: 20,000 pounds of NORM contaminated steel, i.e. >25 uR/hr, have been transported to the GRI facility in Gibson, LA.

NOW WASTE: the following volumes have been transported to US Liquids, in Jennings, LA: 1,725 bbl tank sludges; 1,800 bbl salt water; and 100 bbl washout water.

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